01.03.98	7839.24
04.04.98	7645.47
20.05.98	7536.89
09.01.99	6722.37

The retail selling price of HSD has been revised effective midnight of 27th/ 28th Feb., 1999 due to changes in the duties announced in the Union Budget.

Status of Ninth Five Year Plan

1056. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ninth Five Year Plan has been approved by Government;

(b) if so, how the present plan differ from the earlier one; and

(c) what are the reasons for lowering the growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. After approval by the Government, the Ninth Five Year Plan has also been approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in its 48th meeting held on 19th February, 1999.

(b) and (c) The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) has taken into account the priorities envisged in the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan and also the special emphasis on areas included in the Special Action Plans (SAPs). The focus of SAPs are on (a) doubling of food production in 10 years; (b) expansion and improvement of social infrastructure; (c) expansion and improvement of physical infrastructure and financial services; (d) unveiling a national Water Policy and (e) making India a global Information Technology power.

The Ninth Five Year Plan envisages an average target growth rate of 6.5 per cent per annum in GDP as against the target growth rate of 7 per cent indicated in the Approach Paper, approved by the National Development Council in January, 1997. Revision of the growth target was to take account of a slow down in the growth rate of the Indian economy to 5.0 per cent in 1997-98 and the expected growth rate of about 5.8 per cent this year. Decline in export growth, shortfalls in the Government revenues and the changes in the global and domestic economic situation were mainly responsible for lower than targetted growth rate in the first two years in the Plan. An average growth rate of around 7 per cent needs to be realised in the remaining three years to achieve the average GDP target growth rate of 6.5 per cent during the Ninth Plan period.

Strategy for Deficit Free Funding

1057. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-items in the Pioneer dated the 14th February, 1999 captioned "Plan Panel for deficit free funding";

(b) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has outlined a strategy to finance the entire Ninth Plan with a 33 per cent growth rate in the public sector outlay of Rs. 8,59,200 crores;

(c) if so, what is the basis for depending on this strategy;

(d) whether any fall back strategy been put in place to off-set unexpected hitches in funding; and

(d) if so, the details of the fall-back strategy of the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING

AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The funding pattern of the Public Sector Outlay for the Plan does not provide for any monetised deficit in order to restrict the rate of inflation to 5 per cent per annum during the Ninth Plan. This strategy has been envisaged keeping in view the fact that planned increases in the foreign exchange reserves would generate corresponding increase in the base money in the economy and any additional increase in the money supply through deficit financing would create problems in monetary management.

(d) and (e) the Plan recognises that there may be unexpected hitches not only in raising additional resources but also in maintaining the desired rate of inflation at the 5 per cent level. In order to take care of such situations, the Plan provides for the alternative of allowing the inflation rate to rise to 7 per cent. In such a situation, it would be possible for the Government to take recourse to certain degree of monetised deficit of 0.3 per cent of the GDP.

Allocation for Indira Gandhi Canal Project

1058. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the Indira Gandhi Canal Project under the 'State Plan Allocation' head in Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount sanctioned and provided for the said project from the State Plan Allocation 1998 and till the completion of the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(c) by when Government would provide the remaining fund; and

(d) the amount proposed to be allocated for the Indira Gandhi Canal Project during the Ninth Five Year Plan, together with amount of money likely to be provided during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) As approved by the Planning Commission, the Eighth Plan (1992—97) outlay in the State Plan for Indira Gandhi Nahar Project (IGNP) (Stage I & II) was Rs. 442.09 crore.

(b) and (c) The reported cummulative expenditure under State Plan upto the end of Eighth Five Year Plan and during Annual Plan (1997-98) for this project were Rs. 1042.10 crore and Rs. 88.19 crore respectively.

(d) As indicated in the State Annual Plan (1998-99) document, the outlay including Central assistance (i.e. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and Border Area Development Programme), for this project for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) and for the current financial year (1998-99) are Rs. 1100 crore and Rs. 200 crore respectively.

गरीबी रेखा का निर्धारण

1059. श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार यह सोचती है कि वर्तमान गरीबी रेखा वैज्ञानिक तथा तर्कसंगत नियमों के अनुसार निर्धारित की गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन नियमों का ब्यौरा क्या है तथा किस आधार पर ऐसा मापदंड निर्धारित किया गया है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो क्या सरकार गरीबी रेखा की समीक्षा करने तथा उसे पुनः निर्धारित करने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?